

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claim 20 without prejudice or disclaimer and AMEND claims 1, 7, 21, 27, 29-31, 42, 46, 50 and 51 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
using a specific record associated with a user, wherein
the specific record is stored at a server node,
the specific record contains information that determines that a user characteristic is
to be verified with a home network prior to providing access to said service, and
authorization and authentication for the user is verified ~~every Mth session, wherein~~
~~M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions
is equal to a predetermined number.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further
comprising:
transferring said information from an authentication, authorization and accounting
home server to the server node in a signaling path for a service setup, a service event or a
registration, or a combination thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further
comprising:

deciding, based on said information, that the authentication or authorization, or both, needs be verified.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

performing the authentication or authorization, or both.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

performing the authentication or authorization, or both, by using an authentication, authorization and accounting home server.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

performing the authentication or authorization, or both, in the server node when the required parameters are available.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

using a user specific record associated with a user, wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node that indicates a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a

user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing access to a service; and

providing access to said service responsive to said user specific record, wherein the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~ wherein M is an integer representing the current session when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

determining whether said condition is satisfied; and
providing access to said service without verifying said user characteristic when said condition is not satisfied.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

determining whether said condition is satisfied;
verifying said user characteristic when said condition is satisfied; and
subsequent to said verifying of the user characteristic, providing access to said service when said user characteristic indicates that the user is permitted to access said service.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
determining whether said condition is satisfied when a call session between said user and a service provider node is initiated.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
determining from the user specific record associated with said user when said condition exists during a call session between a user terminal and a service provider node.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
indicating, via said user specific record, when access to said service is permitted without determining, from data stored at a server node in said home network, whether access is permitted.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
storing said user specific record at a server node of said serving network.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

generating a register message at a user terminal and transmitting said register message to a local server node;

determining whether a condition indicated by said user specific record stored at said local server node is satisfied;

generating an access message at said local server node indicating that access to said service is permitted; and

transmitting said access message to a service provider node.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

prior to said storing of said user specific record, generating a request message at said local server node and transmitting said request message to a home authentication, authorization and accounting server of the user; and

transferring data comprising said user specific record from said home authentication, authorization and accounting server to said local server node responsive to said request message.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

generating an invite message at a user terminal and transmitting said invite message to a local server node;

determining whether a condition indicated by said user specific record stored at said local server node is satisfied;

generating an access message at said local server node indicating that access to said service is permitted; and

transmitting said access message to a service provider node.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said user characteristic comprises whether said user is authorized to access said service.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said user characteristic comprises whether said user is authenticated to access said service.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said condition determines the frequency at which said user is to be authorized or authenticated, or both, during a call session between said user terminal and a service provider node.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a message from a user terminal;

storing means for storing a user specific record associated with a user indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing the user with access to a service; and

generating means for generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message to provide said user with access to said service from a service provider node,

wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

22-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

record using means for using a user specific record associated with a user indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service,

wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node; and

generating means for generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message for providing said user with access to said service from a service provider node, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

storing an authorization and authentication profile, associated with a user, wherein the authorization and authentication profile is stored at a serving node in a serving network; and

using said authorization and authentication profile at said serving node, wherein said authorization and authentication profile contains information indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing access to said service, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an interface configured to receive a message from a user terminal; and

a processor configured to

use a user specific record associated with said user to indicate a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service, wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node, and

generate, in response to said user specific record, an access message to provide said user with access to said service from a service provider node, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to

use a user specific record associated with a user to indicate a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service, wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node, and

generate, in response to said user specific record, an access message to provide said user with access to said service from a service provider node, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous
sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit said access message to the service provider node.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a receiver configured to receive data comprising said user specific record transmitted from a home authentication, authorization and accounting server node.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, the apparatus comprising a serving or proxy-call session control function node.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said user specific record comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when authentication or authorization, or both, of said user is required in order to access said service.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said server node further comprises storage configured to store a user specific record.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said controller further comprises storage configured to store a user specific record.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, further comprising:
a transmitter configured to transmit said access message to the service provider node.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, further comprising:
a receiver configured to receive data comprising said user specific record transmitted from a home authentication, authorization and accounting server node.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, the apparatus comprising a serving or proxy-call session control function node.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said user specific record comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data

field determining when authentication or authorization, or both, of said user is required in order to access said service.

42. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a message from a user terminal;

using a user specific record associated with said user indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service, wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node; and

generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message providing said user with access to said service from a service provider node, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 42, further comprising:

transmitting said access message to the service provider node.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 42, further comprising:

receiving data comprising said user specific record transmitted from a home authentication, authorization and accounting server node.

45. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 42, wherein said user specific record comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when authentication or authorization, or both, of said user is required in order to access said service.

46. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
using a user specific record associated with a user indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service, wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node; and

generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message providing said user with access to said service from a service provider node, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising:

transmitting said access message to the service provider node.

48. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising:

receiving data comprising said user specific record transmitted from a home authentication, authorization and accounting server node.

49. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said user specific record comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when authentication or authorization, or both, of said user is required in order to access said service.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable storage medium, the program configured to controlling a processor to perform a process, the process comprising:

receiving a message from a user terminal;

using a user specific record associated with a user indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service, wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node; and

generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message providing said user with access to said service from a service provider node, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.

51. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable storage medium, the program configured to controlling a processor to perform a process, the process comprising:

using a user specific record associated with a user indicating a condition that, when satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified with a home network prior to providing said user with access to a service, wherein the user specific record is stored in a server node; and

generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message providing said user with access to said service from a service provider node, wherein

the condition is that authorization and authentication is verified ~~every Mth session,~~
~~wherein M is an integer representing the current session~~when the number of simultaneous sessions is equal to a predetermined number.